National Register of Historic Places-Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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1.	Nam	16				
historic	7.7	F. Carter Hou	se		terestant and the first and the second secon	
and/or o	common	Carter House				
		ation				
street &	k number	418 S. Main	Street	5	_	not for publication
city, tov	wn Mo	ount Airy		vicinity of	congressional district	
state	North (Carolina	code	county	Surry	code
3. (Clas	sificatio	n			
x bui	strict ilding(s) ucture e	Ownership public private both Public Acquisiti NA in process being consid		Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation a other: being converted
name street &	Mr.	& Mrs. Richard		hnson		
city, tow	n Moun	t Airy		vicinity of	state No	orth Carolina 27030
5. [Loca	tion of L	.ega	I Description	on	
ourthou	use, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Regis	ter of Deeds Offic	ce	
street &	number	Surry County	Court	house		
ity, tow	n Dob	son			state 1	North Carolina
6. F	Repr	esentati	on ii	n Existing	Surveys	
itle Su	ırry Coı	unty Historic	Invento	ory has this pro	perty been determined elig	ible? yes X_ no
late	1981-1	1982				x_ countyx_ local
leposito	ery for sui	rvey records No	rth Car	rolina Division of	`Archives and Histor	•
ity, tow	n Ra	aleigh			state N	orth Carolina

7. Description

Condition X excellent good	deteriorated	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one X original si moved	te date	
fair	unexposed				

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on once-prestigious South Main Street, the W. F. Carter House is one of the most impressive of the houses built during the early twentieth century in Mount Airy. With its generous and well-landscaped front lawn, the Neo-Classical Revival style house is appropriately sited to enhance its image of grandeur.

According to family tradition, the Carter House in its present form took shape around 1907 or 1908 when a previous house on the site was moved back from the street and remodelled. Indeed, the 1905 Sanborn Insurance Map depicts a two-story frame dwelling with one-story wrap-around porch, two rear ells and a side bay window located on the lot, but closer to the street than the present house. (Little is known about the appearance of the original house, except in the most general terms. Deeds suggest that it was probably built by Henry Sparger between 1869 and 1875.) The next Sanborn Map--in 1910--reveals a house with a different placement on the lot and with virtually the same configuration as the house at present. Part of the heavy timber, mortise-and-tenon framework of the original house remains intact, along with the fireplace in one of the first floor rooms, but other evidence of the earlier house was largely obliterated during the ca. 1908 remodelling.

The Carter House is one of the best examples in Surry County of the nationally popular Neo-Classical Revival style. The exterior of the large, two-story frame, weatherboarded house is dominated by the central two-story Ionic portico and the one-story Doric porch which runs beneath the portico for the full length of the three-bay facade. A balustrade on the roof of the porch under the shelter of the portico creates a small second story porch. The exterior styling is continued in the double leaf front door with sidelights and transom, the mostly nine-over-nine sash windows with louvered shutters, the truncated hipped roof with hipped dormers, and the exterior and interior chimneys of Mount Airy's native granite. Photographs taken in 1910 and ca. 1940 show a balustraded deck, or widow's walk, crowning the roof, but this has since disappeared. At the rear of the house, a two-level porch, the upper story of which has been enclosed, outlines the ell formed by the rear wing.

The interior of the Carter House follows a center hall arrangement with two major rooms on either side of the hall and auxiliary rooms to the rear. Well-developed Colonial Revival detailing decorates the interior, with the center hall being the stylistic focal point of the house. There the handsome stair rises in a single flight front to back in the rear of the hall along the south wall. The paneled wainscot, fireplace with adjacent

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recessed bench seat, columned divider, and paneled sliding doors leading to the parlor also contribute to the stylishness of the hall. The Carter house boasts nine fireplaces with mantels in eight variations of the Classical, Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles, giving each room its own individual quality. The most elaborate room in the house is the dining room, with its high paneled wainscot, Craftsman mantel and corner cupboard.

The Carter house is currently being converted to five apartments by the present owners. While closets are being added, kitchens and bathrooms added or updated, and other adjustments made to satisfy the local building code, care is being taken to retain as many original architectural features as possible, thereby preserving the architectural integrity of the house.

An outbuilding of late nineteenth or early twentieth century origin remains behind the house. It is a small, one-story frame structure with weatherboard siding, gable roof with boxed eaves, a single door and two windows. There is no fireplace, but a stovepipe hole does remain. The building may have been used at one time as an office, but its history and original use are unknown. An undistinguished frame garage which appears to date from the second quarter of the twentieth century is scheduled for demolition during the current rehabilitation of the property.

8. Significance

Specific dates	ca. 1908	Builder/Architect Un	known	
1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	art commerce communications	engineering exploration/settlemen industry invention	music nt philosophy x politics/government	humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699			landscape architectu _X_ law literature military	re religion science sculpture social/

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The W. F. Carter House was the home of a prominent Mount Airy family, two of whose members made broad contributions to community life during the late 19th century. William Franklin Carter Sr. (1856-1944), known as the "Dean of the Surry County Bar," was a lawyer for more than sixty years, serving as the first president of the Surry County Bar Association He also served as a special Superior Court judge, was mayor of Mount Airy for three terms, served on the school board for fifteen years, and was an elder and superintendent of the Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church for over half a century. His son, W. Frank Carter, Jr. (1890-1969), organized and directed several local industrial concerns, served as Mount Airy's mayor from 1945 to 1961, was active on several local boards, was a leader in his church, and was an authority on local history, who, along with wife Carrie, was responsible for Surry County's second history book, Footprints in the Hollows. The Carter House, which was enlarged and remodelled ca. 1908, is one of the most outstanding examples of the Neo-Classical Revival style in Surry County.

Criteria Assessment:

- B. The Carter House is associated with the productive lives of William Franklin Carter, Sr. and W. Frank Carter, Jr., who made substantial contributions to legal, political, business and general community life in Mount Airy during the late 19th and first three quarters of the 20th centuries.
- C. The Carter House embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Neo-Classical Revival style in its domestic phase and is one of the most outstanding examples of the style in Surry County.

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William Franklin Carter, the owner responsible for the Neo-Classical Revival transformation of the Carter House, was a prominent Mount Airy citizen for well over half a century. He was born on a farm near Wentworth in Rockingham County on July 31, 1856, the son of William Franklin and Cora Galloway Carter. Carter received his earliest education at home but at the age of eleven entered the Wentworth Academy. Subsequently he attended high school in Lenoir for a year and then returned home for additional private instruction. He then entered Davidson College, from which he was graduated in 1876. After graduation, Carter returned to Wentworth where he served for a year as principal of the Male Academy.

Carter then moved to Mount Airy, where he tutored the children of Judge Jesse Franklin Graves in exchange for the privilege of studying law under the judge. In January, 1879, Carter passed the bar examinations and was licensed to practice law. He established an office in Mount Airy and developed a successful practice which lasted for more than sixty years.

On December 3, 1884, Carter married Annie Hollingsworth of Mount Airy, who was the daughter of prominent local doctor Joseph Hollingsworth and Mary Letitia Banner Hollingsworth. Their marriage lasted more than fifty years and was blessed with eight children: Joseph Hollingsworth, Cora, William Franklin, Jr., John Edwin, Robert Cecil, Walter Wilson, William Hollingsworth, and Archibald Banner. All seven sons, like their father, attended Davidson College.

William Franklin Carter's contributions to his profession and to his community were far-reaching. When the Surry County Bar Association was organized in 1926, Carter became its first president, a position he retained for thirteen years. For years he was hailed as the "Dean of the Surry County Bar." Among his clients were the Board of County Commissioners, the First National Bank of Mount Airy, the Yadkin Valley Railroad, the North Carolina Granite Corporation, and the Surry County Highway Board, In 1927 he was appointed a special Superior Court judge by Gov. Angus McLean.

In addition to his legal career, Carter served three terms as Mount Airy's mayor, was on the local school board for fifteen years, and served for over fifty years as both an elder and as Sunday School Superintendent of First Presbyterian Church. In addition, he was president of the Surry County Loan & Trust Company of Mount Airy and of its branch in Dobson.

W. F. Carter became associated with the house at 418 S. Main Street, Mount Airy, when he purchased the property through a Commissioners Deed from Murphy Allred on July 2, 1892. At that time a house already stood on the lot and was located close to the street, with steps leading from the sidewalk to the porch. Little is

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known about the history of this house, but deeds suggest that it was built by Henry Sparger, after he purchased the property from William M. Banner (Annie Hollingsworth Carter's uncle) in 1869 and before he sold it to James B. Allred in 1875.

Apparently for more than a decade the Carters lived in the house without making substantial changes to it. Then, between 1905 and 1910, probably owing in large part to his increasing wealth and social status as well as to the size of his family, Carter had the 19th century house moved back from the street to provide a more luxurious setting and then enlarged and completely remodelled it in the grandiose Neo-Classical Revival style that had become popular across America during those years. No known records or memories remain to reveal the name of an architect or builder associated with the remodelling. The exact date of the transformation is not known, but the Carters' only daughter, Cora Carter McSween, recalls that it took place ca. 1908 while she was away at school. Supporting this are the Sanborn Maps of 1905 and 1910, the former of which depicts the earlier two-story frame dwelling with one-story wrap-around porch, bay window on the north side and two rear ells, located close to the street, and the latter of which shows the house in virtually the same configuration as at present 4 and located further back from the street than the house as shown on the 1905 map. 14 A professional photograph taken in 1910 shows the house in all of its Neo-Classical Revival glory.

On December 24, 1907—just before or during the time of the remodelling—W. F. Carter deeded the house and surrounding lot to his wife, Annie H. Carter. The reason for this transcation is not known.

Little has been recorded concerning Annie Carter's life, other than that she was educated in private schools and at Peace College in Raleigh. Upon her death on March 20, 1935, the property reverted to Judge Carter.

Judge Carter continued to live in the house until his death at the age of 88 on November 6, 1944. Shortly before his death, Carter's children gave a deed for the property to their brother, W. Frank Carter, Jr., relinquishing all claims they might have had. Upon his father's death, Frank Carter became the sole owner of the house.

W. Frank Carter, Jr. was born in Mount Airy on December 1, 1890. After attending public school in Mount Airy, he entered Davidson College, graduating with a B.A. degree in 1912. On July 28, 1914, Carter married Carrie Young, daughter of John A. and Emma Hines Young of Greensboro. The Carters had two children, William F. III (who died in 1945) and Carolyn.

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Like his father, Frank Carter became an important community leader. Returning to Mount Airy after graduation from Davidson, he became manager of the telephone company, and during World War I he served in the government telephone service in Waco, Texas. After the war, he became one of the organizers of Carter Furniture Company, serving as its head from 1919 to 1939. In 1939 he became secretary—treasurer of Barber Hosiery Mills and stayed with this firm until 1946. In that year he formed the Carter Hosiery Mills, serving as its president until 1957. From 1923 to 1927 and from 1935 to 1937 Carter was on the Town Board of Commissioners as a commissioner—at—large. In 1944 he was again on the Board, and in 1945 he was elected mayor of Mount Airy, a position he held until 1961 when he retired from politics. During his years as mayor, many progressive moves were made in town, including such things as the opening of Renfro Street (Mount Airy's "second Main Street"), the improvement of water service and the construction of a \$1,600,000 sewage disposal plant, a great increase in paved streets, and the expansion of the corporate limits for the first time in Mount Airy's history.

In addition to his business and political roles, Carter was active in other aspects of community life. After helping to create the Northern Surry Hospital in 1953, he served on its board of trustees until 1965. He was a member of the board of directors of the Surry County Red Cross Chapter from 1959 until 1966, serving as chapter chairman for most of those years. Carter was also an elder of the First Presbyterian Church, was a member of the Kiwanis Club, and was a Mason. Even Carter's personal interest in history benefited the community, as he collected numerous newspaper clippings, letters and other data pertaining to the early history of Mount Airy and Surry County, much of which was later published. 24 On January 26, 1969, Frank Carter died, leaving the family home to his wife Carrie.

Carrie Young Carter was born on May 18, 1889 in Guilford County. She was graduated from Greensboro College in 1908. In Mount Airy she was active in the First Presbyterian Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Surry County Chapter of the American Red Cross (serving as its first secretary), and the Surry County Historical Society. With her husband she shared a strong interest in local history, and after his death compiled articles that he had written pertaining to Mount Airy and Surry County history into Footprints in the Hollows, which was published in 1975. Carrie Young Carter died on December 10, 1981.

Several years before her death, Carrie Carter deeded the Carter House to her daughter, Carolyn Carter Johnson, on December 19, 1975. On November 15, 1982 Carolyn Carter Johnson and her husband, Vivian B. Johnson, sold auction the Carter house to Richard G. and Sarah C. Johnson of Mount Airy.

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North Carolina, Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth, Vol. IV: North Carolina Biography, by Special Staff of Writers (Chicago: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1928), p. 333, hereinafter cited as Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth; History of North Carolina, Vol. IV: North Carolina Biography, by Special Staff of Writers (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1919), p. 215, hereinafter cited as History of North Carolina.

² History of North Carolina, p. 215.

History of North Carolina, P. 215.

⁴ Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth, p. 333.

John W. Cannon, "Among our Neighbors: Veteran Lawyer Believes in Being on Time," <u>Greensboro Daily News</u>, October 18, 1939.

^{6 &}quot;Judge Carter Observes His 85th Birthday," <u>Winston-Salem Journal</u>, August 1, 1941.

Marjorie Hunter, "Surry Lawyers Laud Judge Carter As Portrait Is Hung in Courtroom," <u>Winston-Salem Journal</u>, September 19, 1957.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth, p. 333.

Deed Book 28, pp. 162-163, Office of the Register of Deeds, Surry County Courthouse, Dobson. Deeds hereinafter cited by book and page numbers only. Murphy Allred was the father of James B. Allred, whose home this was. By J. B. Allred's will (Will Book 6, pp. 218-219), Murphy Allred was named executory and was charged with selling the house if James' widow remarried before the youngest child came of age. Thus it was that the property was transferred to Carter from Murphy Allred rather than from James B. Allred.

Deed Book 28, p. 163; "Alma B. Bivens Looks Back on Mount Airy's Past," Mount Airy News, October 7, 1975.

Deed Book 12, pp. 280-281; Deed Book 15, pp. 420-421. Information on William M. Banner was compiled by Carolyn Carter Johnson from William Perry Banner's "History & Genealogy of Henry Banner & Descendants and Alma Banner Bivens' "Banner Genealogy" and submitted to Consultant in handwritten note form.

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- 13 Interview by Sarah and Richard Johnson with Cora Carter McSween, High Point, January 5, 1983.
- 14 Sanborn Insurance Maps of Mount Airy, Surry County, North Carolina (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1905 & 1910).
 - 15 Photograph in possession of Carolyn Carter Johnson.
 - 16 Deed Book 55, pp. 487-488.
 - Mount Airy Times, March 21, 1935.
- 18 Interview by Sarah Johnson with Carolyn Carter Johnson, Raleigh, January 30, 1983. No will, estate papers or other legal documents could be found to show a formal transaction.
 - 19 Deed Book 149, pp. 379-380.
- Carolyn Carter Johnson interview. W. F. Carter died without leaving a will, and there appears to be no formal transaction whereby the property passed from him to his son Frank, other than the quit claim deed as listed in note 19. According to family tradition, Frank Carter received the house because he took care of Judge Carter during the final years of the Judge's life.
- 21 "Mt. Airy Mourns Death of W. Frank Carter Jr.," Mount Airy Times, January 31, 1969; History of North Carolina, Vol. III: Family and Personal History (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1956), p. 273.
 - 22 <u>Ibid</u>.
 - 23 <u>Ibid</u>.
- 24 Will Book 18, pp. 268-269, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Surry County Courthouse, Dobson.
- $\frac{25}{\text{News}}$, Mount Airy Times, December 17, 1981; "New History Released," Mount Airy News, May 9, 1975.
 - ²⁶ Deed Book 320, p. 740.
 - 27 Deed Book 384, p. 820.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographica	l Data				
Acreage of nominated property less Mount Airy South	s than one	Quadrangle scale 1:24000			
UMT References					
A 117 5131541010 410 31 Zone Easting Northing		Easting Northing			
	D				
Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property consists of Parcel 1399 of Block 83, Surry Co. Tax Map #5020.16, the boundaries of which are outlined in red on the accompanying tax map. It includes the house, frame outbuilding and surrounding yard.					
List all states and counties for pro	perties overlapping state or co	ounty boundaries			
state N/A	code county N	/A code			
state	code county	code			
11. Form Prepare	d By				
name/title Laura A. W. Phillips,	Consultant				
organization	da	ate February 16, 1983			
street & number 637 N. Spring St	reet te	lephone 919/727-1968			
city or town Winston-Salem	st	ate North Carolina 27101			
12. State Historic	Preservation (Officer Certification			
The evaluated significance of this proper	rty within the state is:				
national	state X local				
As the designated State Historic Preserve 665), I hereby nominate this property for according to the criteria and procedures State Historic Preservation Officer signat	inclusion in the National Register asset forth by the National Park Sen				
ille State Historic Preser	rvation Officer	date July 5, 1983			
For NPS use only					
I hereby certify that this property is	Included in the National Register				
Various at the National Production		date			
Keeper of the National Register					
Attest:		date			
Chief of Registration	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE				

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Interview by Sarah Johnson with Carolyn Carter Johnson, Raleigh, January 30, 1983.

Interview by Sarah and Richard Johnson with Cora Carter McSween, High Point, January 5, 1983.

Mount Airy News. 1975.

Mount Airy Times. 1935, 1969, 1971.

North Carolina, Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth. Vol. IV: North Carolina

Biography, by Special Staff of Writers. Chicago: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1928.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, Mount Airy, Surry County, North Carolina. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1905, 1910.

Surry County Records, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroup: Deeds) & Office of the Clerk of Superior Court (Subgroup: Wills), Surry County Courthouse,
Dobson.

Winston-Salem Journal. 1941, 1957.

w. F. Carter House Mount Airy, Surry County Quadrangle: Mount Airy South, N.C. UNITED STATES Scale: 1: 24,000 Zone: 17 EPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Acreage: less than 1 acre Easting 535400 Northing 4048910 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 30" HILLSVILLE VA 21 MI 535000m E Rocktord Sch MOUNTAIRY Cem Toast Creek Bannertown Substatio Seed Sewage. Disposal Boones Hill / Skyline Memorial Garde South Side Co. Quarries 1188 Cem: (1815)



